

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain in the application with claims 1, 3, 4, 13, and 15-18 amended to improve form and overcome rejections based on 35 USC § 112, and 35 USC § 101.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the claims as amended.

The Examiner has noted that claims 5-12 and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. By the present amendment, it is believed that claims 5-12 and 15-18 are in compliance with 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 5-12 and 15-18 should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, the Examiner noting specific objections in the claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1-13 and 15-18 as amended. In claim 1, reference to a second signal detector has been eliminated. In claims 1 and 13, the word "cooperate" has been deleted. In claims 15-18, the limitations are now directed specifically to step (c). Claims 3 and 4 now are directed to defining the conducting medium which is recited in the preamble of claim 1, from which claims 3 and 4 depend. Note that this is in accord with the description on page 3, lines 9 and 10, that in the simplest form, the probe comprises two electrodes 10,12 placed in a conducting medium such as tissue or saline 14.

Accordingly, it is believed that the Examiner's objections to claims 1-13 and 15-18 have been addressed by the present amendment, and the claims are now in compliance with 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 101, the Examiner alleging that the claimed invention is directed to a non-statutory subject matter in reciting "tissue".

This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as now amended in which the conducting medium (tissue or fluid) is recited only in the preamble of the claim for the environment in which the probe detects magnetic resonance signals. The probe does not include the conducting medium as an element of the claim.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claims 5-12 and 15-18 would be allowable if rewritten, since claims 1-13 and 15-18 have been rewritten to be in compliance with 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and since claims 1-4 and 13 have been amended to recite statutory subject matter without inclusion of "tissue" as an element of the claimed probe, all as above set forth, it is requested that claims 1-13 and 15-18 as amended be allowed and the case advanced to issue.

Should the Examiner have any question concerning the present amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at area code 650-314-5311 (direct line) is requested.


Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. STFUP076).

Respectfully submitted,
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1. (Currently amended) A probe for detecting magnetic resonance signals emitted from a region of interest including a conducting medium in an object comprising:

- (a) at least first and second electrodes positionable on or within the object in proximity to the region of interest, distal ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and disconnected, and
- (b) feed wires coupling proximal ends of the electrodes to a signal detector[, wherein the electrodes and feed wires cooperatively function with tissue within the region of interest to form a signal detector].

3. (Currently amended) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the conducting medium [matter] comprises tissue.

4. (Currently amended) The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the conducting medium [matter] comprises fluid.

13. (Currently amended) A method of imaging a region of interest including a conducting medium in an object comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing the object in a static magnetic field.
- (b) applying RF excitation pulses to the region of interest, and
- (c) detecting magnetic resonance signals from the region of interest with an array of at least two spaced electrodes in proximity to the region of interest, distal ends of the electrodes being spaced apart and disconnected[, tissue in the region of interest cooperating with the electrodes to form a signal detector].

15. (Currently amended) The method as defined by claim 13 wherein step (c) includes using [the] electrodes that comprise needles.

16. (Currently amended) The method as defined by claim 13 wherein step (c) includes using the electrodes that are carried by a catheter.

17. (Currently amended) The method as defined by claim 16 wherein step (c) includes using [the] electrodes that comprise rings around the circumference of the catheter.

MARKED UP VERSION INDICATING CHANGES MADE

18. (Currently amended) The method as defined by claim 16 wherein step (c) includes using
[the] electrodes that are extendable from and retractable within the catheter.